

February 12, 2003

The Honorable Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington D.C. 20544

Re: CC Docket No. 01-338, Review of the Section 251
Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As the Chair of the California Small Business Association, a non-profit organization representing over 180,000 small businesses in California, I'm writing to support elimination of the current unbundling rules for incumbent local exchange carriers.

The telecommunications industry has tried to operate under these irrational rules - and now, thousands of layoffs later - small business consumers of telecommunications services don't seem much better off.

The time has come for a national framework that will be an incentive for companies to build out network infrastructure. To that end, the proposals now before you to eliminate unbundled switching and the UNE-P provisions should greatly accelerate spending in the network infrastructure that is so critical to small business.

We hope you and your colleagues will move expeditiously to make this happen. Thank you for considering our views as the FCC considers its triennial review.

Sincerely,

Eileen Fend
Chair
California Small Business Association